

SITUATION REPORT NO. 18
INCIDENT NO. 2002-040
DATE: August 20, 2002 TIME: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Drought/Fires – The Governor issued a state fire emergency declaration on May 30, 2002, and a state drought emergency declaration on July 1, 2002.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has received reports of two fatalities relating to rural fires, one of which occurred on May 2 and the other on May 26. To date, a total of 11 injuries have been reported during response to various fires throughout the state.
3. DAMAGES: Officials from Bowman County reported fires occurred August 16, sixteen miles south and four miles west of Rhame and approximately five miles south and four miles west of Marmarth. All local volunteer fire departments including two from Montana responded. The State/Federal Fire Support Task Force Unit, based in Hettinger, was dispatched and responded to the fire south of Rhame. On August 17, the fire south and west of Rhame re-ignited but was contained. Another fire located approximately 11 miles south and two miles east of Gascoyne was extinguished as was a third fire three miles south of Scranton. The State/Federal Fire Support Task Force Unit was dispatched but the request was canceled while in route to the Scranton area. On August 18, the fire south and west of Rhame flared and was extinguished.

The North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service reported that from August 12-18 condition of pastures and rangeland statewide was rated 25 percent very poor, 32 percent poor, 29 percent fair, 13 percent good, and one percent excellent.

The percent of soil moisture in four categories is as follows:

	<u>Very Short</u>	<u>Short</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Surplus</u>
TOPSOIL				
This Week	16	32	49	3
Last Week	15	37	47	1
SUBSOIL				
This Week	17	32	49	2
Last Week	17	34	47	2

4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: On August 2, Governor Hoeven requested the President to issue an emergency declaration to help provide federal funding for a State Fire Support Task Force.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On August 19, Governor Hoeven issued a statement confirming the U.S. Department of Agriculture's extension of statewide emergency haying and grazing through November 30.
7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state, local, tribal, federal and private entity emergency operations plans (EOPs) and procedures have been implemented.

Due to the urgent need for hay in drought-stricken parts of the state, the North Dakota (NDSU) Extension Service has established a website where hay producers including those with CRP acres and prospective buyers can directly contact one another. The site is located at <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/feedlist/>. The general NDSU Extension Service website has links to hay and feed listings in neighboring states at <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu>. Producers and buyers may also contact their local extension agent to be placed on the appropriate list.

The N.D. Rural Fire Mitigation Guide and the N.D. Rangeland Fire Danger Index are posted on the N.D. Division of Emergency Management web site at: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem/>.

Situation Reports published by N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director